

**Ann Jones Testimony
Howard County Operating Budget
May 12, 2022**

Position: Support of the proposed grant to the Howard County Conservancy to develop, administer and implement a purchased easement program.

Good morning. My name is Ann Jones and I live at 2921 Greenway Drive in Ellicott City.

Howard County has long been a national land preservation leader, establishing the first agricultural preservation installment purchase program in the nation, encouraging cluster development on farmland, and working with the Howard County Conservancy to implement a small parcel easement donation program.

The proposed purchased easement program to be administered by the Howard County Conservancy provides yet another opportunity for Howard County to demonstrate leadership in land preservation. Nonprofit organizations frequently own significant parcels of land but at this time there is no program available to provide any financial incentive for those non-profits to place a conservation easement on their property.

The Howard County Conservancy has been approached by several non-profits interested in protecting their property. These properties include significant environmental and recreational value features, and their development would severely degrade those features.

The Conservancy has significant experience in accepting and administering donated and purchased easements. Funding this pilot program would allow the Conservancy to demonstrate the need for and effectiveness of a program to purchase easements from nonprofit entities. We estimate that 80% of the budget will go for the actual purchase of easements and the balance will go to work on developing the program, administering the program, and due diligence prior to placing an easement on the property.

This program offers a chance to demonstrate that innovative approaches to land preservation are critical if we are to preserve what is best and unique in the county.



May 12, 2022

Howard County Executive Ball and County Council Members
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: FY23 Budget

Dear Howard County Executive Ball and County Council Members,

The Howard County Sierra Club is writing to express support for the funding levels included in the proposed FY23 operating budget for the Community Ecology Institute.

The Community Ecology Institute has demonstrated a meaningful commitment to environmental protection and community education around climate change and climate resilience. Moreover, the Community Ecology Institute's diverse programs advance the citizens of Howard County's appreciation of local watersheds, pollinators, Maryland's native flora and fauna, permaculture principles, and much more. Their management of Freetown Farm has shown that a great deal of transformative environmental education can happen on relatively small parcels of property. They have also encouraged over a dozen organizations to be a part of and flourish at Freetown Farm. The County should continue to support this organization's work and mission.

We request that the financial support outlined in the 2023 operational budget for the Community Ecology Institute is kept intact.

Sincerely,

Howard County Sierra Club

Sayers, Margery

From: Kerri Bentkowski Li <kerri.bentkowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2022 10:44 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Support Camp Ilchester in the Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council Members:

Please ensure the necessary funds are included in the capital budget to support the funding for County's purchasing of Camp Ilchester from the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland.

Camp Ilchester is a natural open space treasure in Howard County. While it is located in District 1 and certainly appreciated by the local community, Camp Ilchester benefits children throughout the county IN All Districts that attend Y camp, Girl Scout Day Camp, and other programming throughout the year. The facilities allow children to learn about the environment in a local setting. In addition, this area is a beneficial habitat for wildlife surrounded by residential development, and reduces stormwater inputs to Bonnie Branch and the Patapsco River. As a Girl Scout Troop Leader, our girls who attend 3 area elementary schools frequently attend programming at the site.

Thank you for your consideration and support for Camp Ilchester.

Sincerely,
Kerri Bentkowski and Raymond Li
9882 Century Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION


I, Kendra R. Banks, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Howard County Branch NAACP to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Operating Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / ~~opposition to~~ / ~~request to amend~~ this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Kendra R. Banks

Signature: 

Date: May 11th, 2022

Organization: Howard County Branch NAACP

Organization Address: 8775 Cloudleap Court, Suite 200, Columbia, MD 21045

8775 Cloudleap Court, Suite 200, Columbia, MD 21045

Number of Members: _____

Name of Chair/President: Willie Flowers

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

Dear Members of the Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to lift my voice. I am Kendra R. Banks, a resident of Ellicott City/ Howard County. I am the Education Committee Chair of the Howard County Branch NAACP and proud to represent the organization and testify in support of the operating budget.

It is extremely important that as a community, we continue to curate opportunities to build and strengthen relationships, honor diversity and culture, and create equity in education and available resources by providing access to a variety of these opportunities. NAACP wants to continue to push the mission forward of ensuring the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights for all people.

Approving the budget, creates meaningful opportunities that will:

- Through our Freedom School, we will provide students with a cultural and educational foundation that contributes to building pride and confidence in our children; engage our children in experiences that contribute to the development of impactful and productive world citizens who direct the trajectory of their lives. This program will provide cultural enrichment, through arts, technology and history.
- Our George Washington Carver Food Justice Program will nourish and cultivate healthy communities by connecting with the earth through gardening and creating food resources to seniors and families in need.
- Our HoCo Beats Arts and Tourism event will highlight and honor diversity by producing arts focused experiences that create a common thread through music and increase tourism in Howard County.
- The Tech Roots Summit will create equitable experiences that will help residents thrive in our global society through the development of their technological skills.

As we witness the impact of the pandemic on society and how it has highlighted preexisting challenges, we need to be intentional about how we shape our environments, support and build community and invest in the residents of this county. This is an opportunity for Howard County to support innovative and engaging ways to educate, promote diversity equity and inclusion, and continue strengthening the voice of the whole community.

I implore you to approve the operation budget and support the upward movement of our county.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to lift my voice.

Kendra R. Banks



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

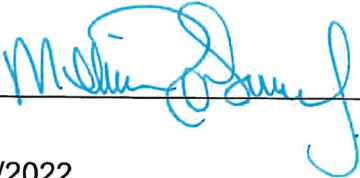
I, Melissa Rosenberg, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Howard County Autism Society to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding FY23 Operating Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Melissa Rosenberg

Signature: 

Date: 5/11/2022

Organization: Howard County Autism Society

Organization Address: Columbia, MD 21046

Columbia, MD 21046

Number of Members: 5000 served annually

Name of Chair/President: Donald M. Barrick, Board President

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**Comments to Howard County Council by the Howard County Autism Society
May 12, 2022
Regarding Special Education Funding – Howard County Public School System
FY23 Operating Budget**

My name is Melissa Rosenberg, Executive Director of the Howard County Autism Society.

The Autism Society is one of the county's largest and most established organizations serving over 5,000 individuals in the Autism and the disabilities community annually.

Our organization is especially concerned about the County budget and special education. The county's special education program is undergoing severe strain as it emerges from the pandemic. Students with disabilities suffered some of the greatest learning losses during the pandemic, and have additional challenges readjusting to school routines. The county has a legal responsibility to provide a free and appropriate public education to special education students, we cannot afford to shortchange this budget over the next several years of educational recovery.

At the core of the challenge is a deficiency of trained staff at all levels, including special education teachers, one on one assistants, and specialists such as speech pathologists and behavioral staff. Special education students need intensive help that only trained staff can provide. If caseloads are too large, legally required interventions cannot be delivered. Staff need time for lunch breaks and planning but cannot leave their students unattended. This puts them in an impossible position when they do not have coverage. HCAS fully supports Dr. Martirano's HCPSS budget request that adds 200 new positions to the special education staff.

For this reason, we were so pleased to read the announcement of the County's executive budget which declared that "The FY23 budget proposal fully funds special education staffing needs." Unfortunately, there appears to be a \$70 million discrepancy between the County Executive's numbers and what the Board views as its full request, including health care and pension costs for new special education staff. HCPSS has presented a scenario that requires an additional \$14.5 million in funding in order to fully fund the special education staffing needs of the school system. We call on the County Council to work with the County Executive to deliver the required incremental funds to fully fund the special education budget.

Parents, students, the professional leadership and the teachers recognize that special education students and the professionals serving them are reaching a breaking point. With new resources and new commitments, now is the time for Howard County to stay true to its values of diversity, equity and inclusion and deliver the school system adequate resources for our students facing the greatest challenges to succeed.

Please, County Executive and County Council, step up to the plate and provide our schools with the resources they need to finally have adequate special education staffing.

Thank you.



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, _____, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

_____ to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding _____ to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Cherie Brooks

Signature: Cherie Brooks

Digitally signed by Cherie Brooks
Date: 2022.05.11 09:18:03 -04'00'

Date: May 11, 2022

Organization: Power52 Foundation

Organization Address: Columbia, MD 21045

Columbia, MD 21045

Number of Members: 8

Name of Chair/President: Walter Barnes, Power52 BOD Chairman

*This form can be submitted electronically via email to
councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the
Public Hearing.*



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Lori Lilly, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Howard EcoWorks to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding D1164 and EC flood mitigation to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Lori Lilly

Signature: 

Date: 5/9/2011

Organization: Howard EcoWorks

Organization Address: 9770 Patuxent Woods Dr, Columbia

9770 Patuxent Woods Dr, Columbia

Number of Members: n/a

Name of Chair/President: Kevin McAliley / Kris Althouse

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.

5/12/2022



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

No

I, Sue Ann Shafley, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Camp Attaway, Inc. to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Proposed FY2023 Operating Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Sue Ann Shafley

Signature: *Sue Ann Shafley*

Date: 4/28/2022

Organization: Camp Attaway

Organization Address: 9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite #303, Columbia MD 21046

9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite #303, Columbia MD 21046

Number of Members: 9

Name of Chair/President: Karen Cherry

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5/12/2022



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Emily Hickox, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Consumer Credit Counseling Service of MD and DE (CCCSMD) to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding the Operating Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Emily Hickox

Signature: Emily Hickox

Digitally signed by Emily Hickox
Date: 2022.05.09 08:59:48 -04'00'

Date: 05/09/2022

Organization: CCCSMD

Organization Address: 6315 Hillside Court, Suite B, Columbia, MD 21046

6315 Hillside Court, Suite B, Columbia, MD 21046

Number of Members: 19

Name of Chair/President: Helene Raynaud

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councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the
Public Hearing.*



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Dr. Noah Weintraub, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Camp Attaway to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Proposed Operating Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Dr. Noah Weintraub

Signature:

Date: 5/11/2022

Organization: Camp Attaway

Organization Address: 9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite #303, Columbia, MD 21046

9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite #303, Columbia, MD 21046

Number of Members: 9

Name of Chair/President: Karen Cherry

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Nina Basu, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

InnerArborTrust, Inc. to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding County Executive's Operating Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Nina Basu

Signature: 

Date: 5-11-2022

Organization: Inner Arbor Trust, Inc.

Organization Address: 5430 Vantage Point Road, Suite A Columbia MD 21044

5430 Vantage Point Road, Suite A Columbia MD 21044

Number of Members: 7 board members, 2 non voting members

Name of Chair/President: Lin Eagan

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.

From: [Willie Flowers](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: NAACP - Willie Flowers
Date: Monday, May 9, 2022 2:55:17 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Willie Flowers, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)
NAACP Howard County Branch to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)
County Council regarding Budget Hearings to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)
support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Willie Flowers

Signature: Willie Flowers

Date: 5/9/22

Organization: NAACP Howard County Branch

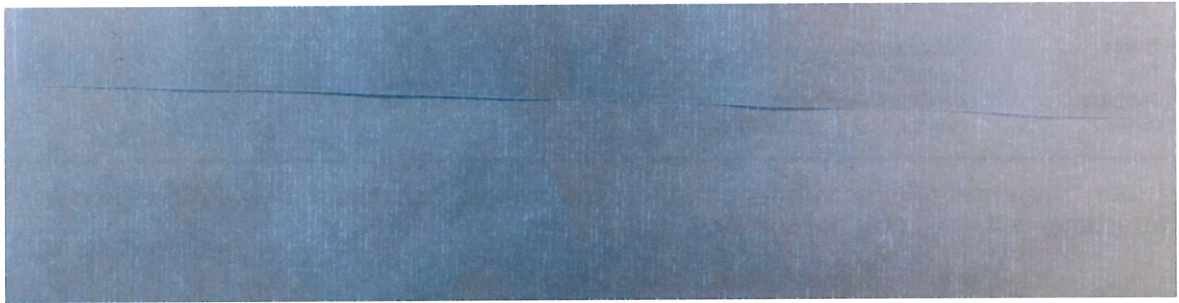
Organization Address: 8725 Cloudway Court

Columbia Md 21045

Number of Members: 800

Name of Chair/President: Willie Flowers

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.





HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Pravin Ponnuri, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Indian Origin Network of Howard County (IONHoCo) to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Budget Public Hearing to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Pravin Ponnuri

Signature: Pravin Ponnuri

Digitally signed by Pravin Ponnuri
Date: 2022.05.12 06:54:20 -04'00'

Date: 5/12/2022

Organization: Indian Origin Network of Howard County (IONHoCo)

Organization Address: 4616 Broken Lute Way, Ellicott City MD 21042

4616 Broken Lute Way, Ellicott City MD 21042

Number of Members: 1,000+

Name of Chair/President: Pravin Ponnuri

*This form can be submitted electronically via email to
councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the
Public Hearing.*



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Stephanie Mummert, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Howard County SECAC to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding the operating budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Stephanie Mummert

Signature: Stephanie K. Mummert

Date: 5/11/22

Organization: Howard County SECAC

Organization Address: PO Box 60 Glenelg, MD 21737

PO Box 60 Glenelg, MD 21737

Number of Members: 120

Name of Chair/President: Stephanie Mummert and Supreet Anand

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**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Ann Heavner, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)
Rebuilding Together Howard County to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or taskforce)
County Council regarding CSP Grants to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)
support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Ann Heavner

Signature: *Ann Heavner*

Date: 5-11-22

Organization: Rebuilding Together Howard County

Organization Address: 8775 Centre Park Dr. #519
Columbia, MD 21045

Number of Members: 14

Name of Chair/President: Phil Montag

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.

From: **Sayers, Margery** msayers@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Affidavit to Speak
Date: May 12, 2022 at 8:14 AM
To:

MS

Good morning

You have signed up to speak on behalf of an organization. Please submit the attached no later than 9am this morning.

Margery Sayers
Executive Assistant
Howard County Council
410-313-0832



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, JULIE NEIDORF, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

SUCCESS IN STYLE to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding N/A (POWER 52) to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / ~~opposition to~~ / ~~request to amend~~ this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: JULIE NEIDORF

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 5/12/22

Organization: SUCCESS IN STYLE

Organization Address: 8600 FOUNDRY ST. HISTORIC SAVAGE MILL
SAVAGE, MD 20763

Number of Members: N/A

Name of Chair/President: JENNIFER KENDALL

This form can be submitted electronically via email to council@mailgw.doh.wa.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing

From: **Sayers, Margery** msayers@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Affidavit to Speak
Date: May 12, 2022 at 8:14 AM
To:



Good morning

You have signed up to speak on behalf of an organization. Please submit the attached no later than 9am this morning.

Margery Sayers
Executive Assistant
Howard County Council
410-313-0832



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, JULIE NEIDORF, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)
SUCCESS IN STYLE to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)
County Council regarding N/A (POWER52) to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: JULIE NEIDORF

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 5/12/22

Organization: SUCCESS IN STYLE

Organization Address: 8600 FOUNDRY ST. HISTORIC SAVAGE MILL
SAVAGE, MD 20763

Number of Members: N/A

Name of Chair/President: JENNIFER KENDALL

This form can be submitted electronically via email to council@howard-county.md.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing



Department of Planning and Zoning Budget Request for FY23

Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning

2022 Accomplishments

- Best in Class NACO award for the Ellicott City Master Plan
- Temporary Outdoor Seating process for restaurants during COVID
- 6 IPA's totaling over 270 acres (23,100 total acres) in Ag Pres
- Route 1 tax credit: full allocation expended on 5 commercial facades
- HoCo By Design – over 8,500 comment, over 2,400 attendees at 81 meetings
- Instituted an electronic plan signature process
- Assisted with Complete Streets Implementation and updates to Design Manual Volume III
- Completed the Long Reach Sustainable Communities Application

FY 23 Requests

- 6.8% increase (\$474,000) to maintain current service levels and restore two vacant positions
 - Outreach and Communications Coordinator
 - Historic Planner I – Resource Conservation Division
- Three new Paygo Efforts
 - \$500,000 – Consultant for Gateway Master Plan
 - \$680,000 – fully fund Consultant for Code Rewrite
 - \$333,079 – Pdox upgrades
 - Transition to the Cloud
 - Add workflows for redlines, alternative compliance, and zoning petitions
 - Electronic Form submission

Sayers, Margery

From: Alison Hickman <alisonhickman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 9:43 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Copy of Testimony - Columbia Festival of the Arts

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council,

I wanted to share a copy of my testimony from last evening as well as provide some additional context on our engagement pattern in drawing both residents from all across Howard County as well as the broader region as I thought it might be helpful in contextualizing the impact LakeFest has on our community.

Context on Engagement Pattern: Our survey data for free events such as LakeFest along with ticket buyer data demonstrates that we draw not only from across Howard County but also from the broader geographic region outside the County and even the state. There are a range of different geographic engagement patterns we observe depending on the artists and acts booked; for facets of our Lakefest that partner with the school system such as the High School Jazz Bands, we might see a County-centric crowd, for performances with international or national artists we draw attendees from across the overall region. Not only do we engage the Howard County community but we bring tourism dollars to the local economy by presenting touring artists with a regional appeal.

Copy of Testimony:

I am the current board chair of Columbia Festival of the Arts. I'll try to be brief as I know you are receiving a lot of valuable testimony and feedback on how best to deploy Howard County Operating budget resources in this budget cycle. I am writing to ask that you support the Columbia Festival of the Arts grant under the Howard County Community Service Partnership Program.

An enduring and celebrated tradition entering its 35th year is LakeFest. For 35 remarkable years, the Columbia Festival of the Arts has brought together the entire community, comprising nearly 20,000 local attendees from across the County and the region, to experience a Columbia and Howard County valuable tradition each summer.

This large-scale multi-day event (June 10 - June 12 this year) enlivens the community by bringing together local businesses, world class arts performers and artisans, produced by highly qualified IATSE union members. This year, again, the festival will activate the lakefront space for all of Howard County, providing a free experience for residents at all income levels in an engaging and dynamic way as an entirely outdoors event. The event includes diverse stage performances, fine art exhibitions, films, family activities, workshops and so much more.

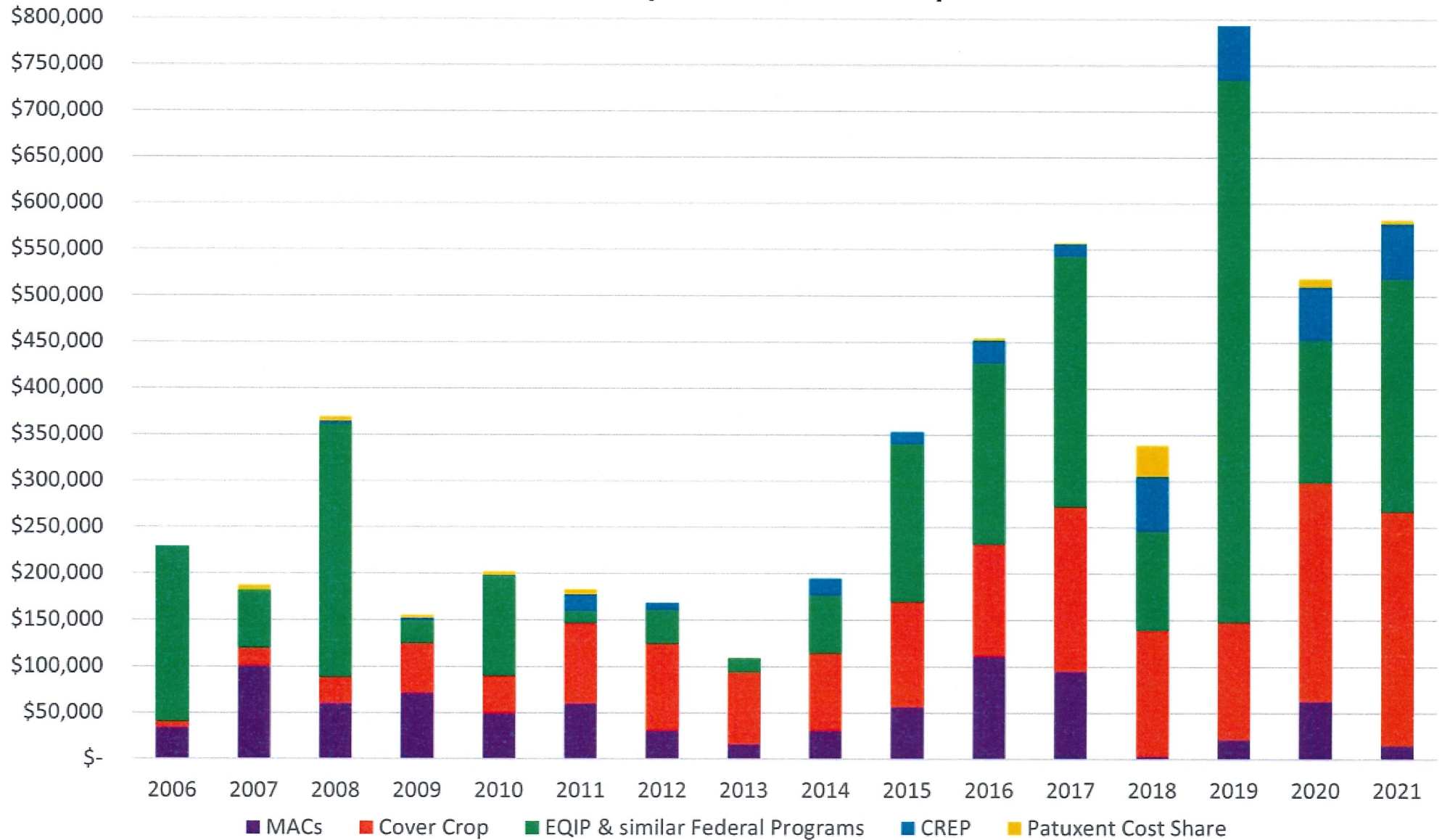
Thank you for providing this forum for comment and for your continued service to our community. Thank you for your consideration of support to Columbia Festival of the Arts!

Sincerely,
Alison Hickman
Board Chair
301-580-5442



CONSERVATION FUNDING for HOWARD COUNTY FARMERS

In addition to providing farmers with technical guidance to protect soil, water & other natural resources, the Howard SCD also helps farmers to access a wide array of financial assistance to implement conservation practices.



Sayers, Margery

From: Larry Walker <lwalker@wininlife.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 3:38 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Robbie Davis
Subject: Housing Opportunity Trust Fund

Dear Council members,

Thank you for your service to Howard County. I am writing to express my strong support for the Administration's proposed \$5 million designation of seed funding in the 2023 budget. As a leading community in America it is time Howard County set in its budget funding for this crucial component of affordable housing. Many of us are privileged, we can afford to live in this wonderful community; while simultaneously other families struggle to provide for their basic necessities and keep a roof over their head. Being a pastor at one of the larger churches in the county, whose budget includes benevolence, I see first hand the struggles far too many families face with these difficult decisions. As elected officials, you've take an oath to serve all the people of the county, showing your support by approving the proposed HOTF funding in the FY 2023 budget will speak loudly to the historically disenfranchised because of the high cost of housing.

Peace,
Larry

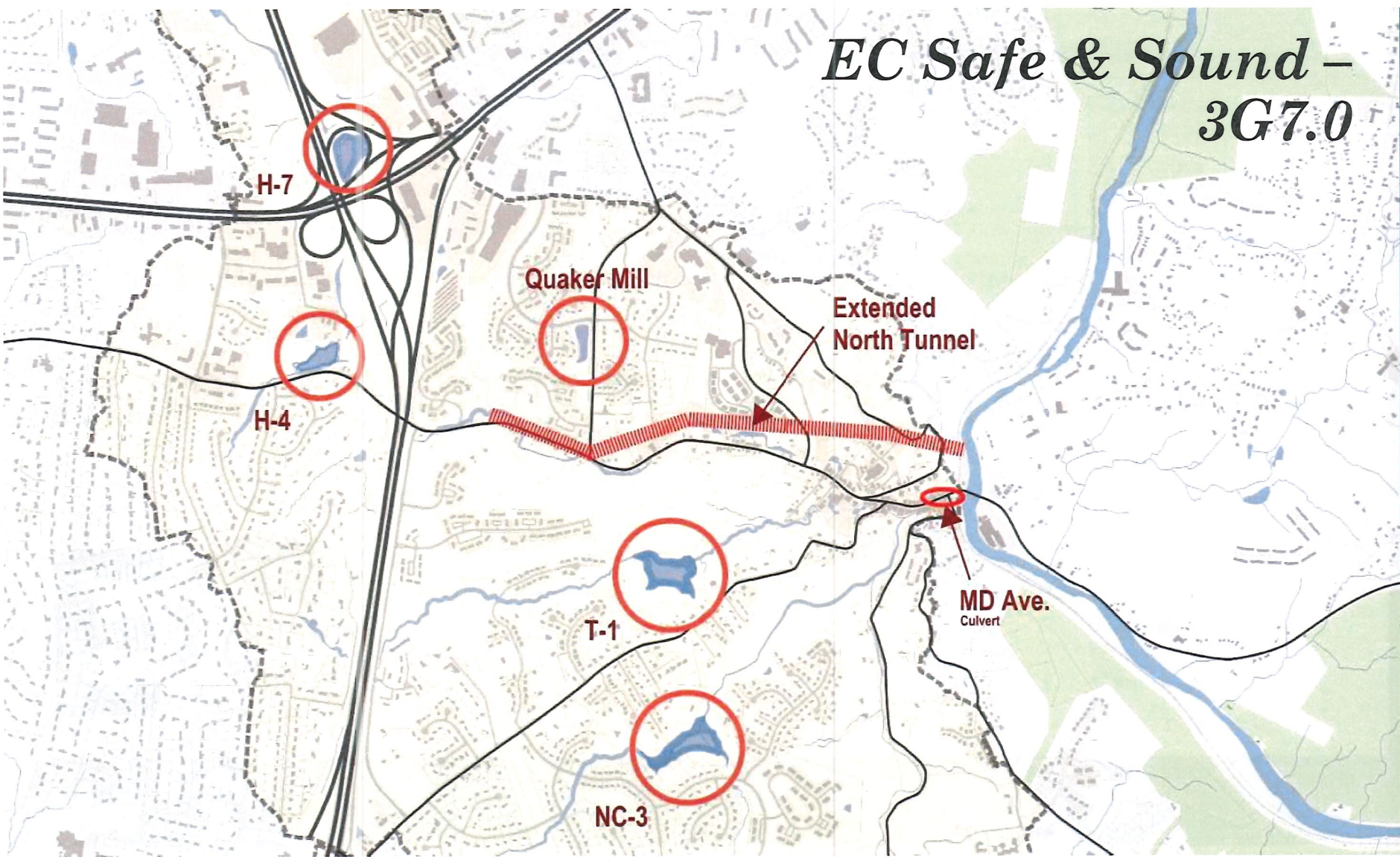
Rev. Lawrence "Larry" E. Walker, Sr.
Deputy Pastor/Chief of Staff
CELEBRATION CHURCH at Columbia
7101 Riverwood Drive
Columbia, Maryland 21046
lwalker@wininlife.com
443-676-1037



Ellicott City Safe and Sound Update

May 2022

EC Safe & Sound – 3G7.0



WIFIA

A \$75m loan from the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of the Environmental Protection Agency

December 2018 Status:

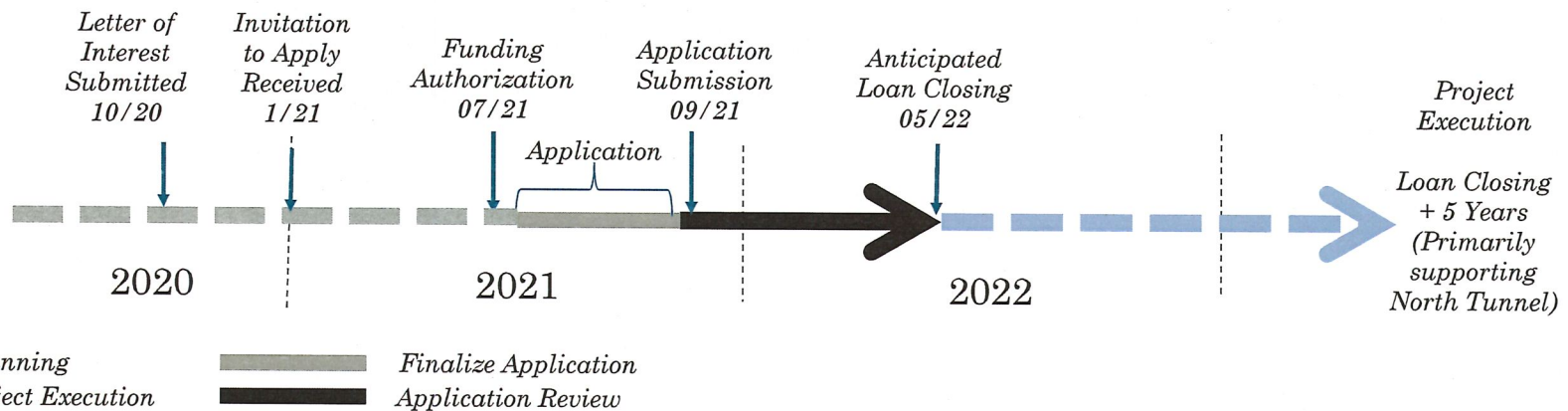
- No application submitted

Current Status:

- Due diligence and loan terms

Next Steps:

- Approval and execution of loan



EC Safe & Sound – H-7

A 13-acre-foot dry flood mitigation pond located in the US 40/US 29 interchange

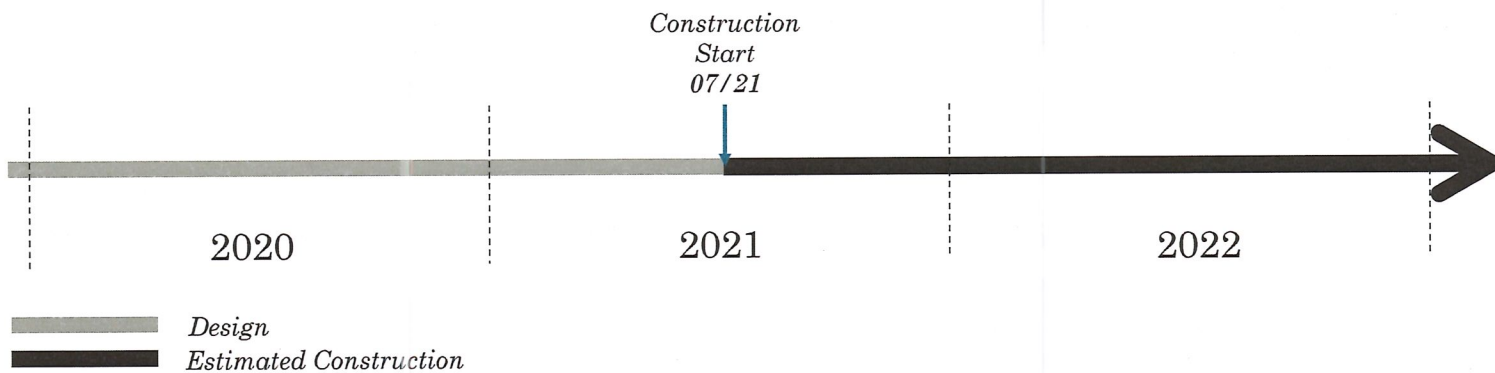
December 2018 Status:

- 65% design, permitting incomplete, necessary agreements unsigned



Current Status:

- Fully funded
- Project under construction



EC Safe & Sound – Quaker Mill

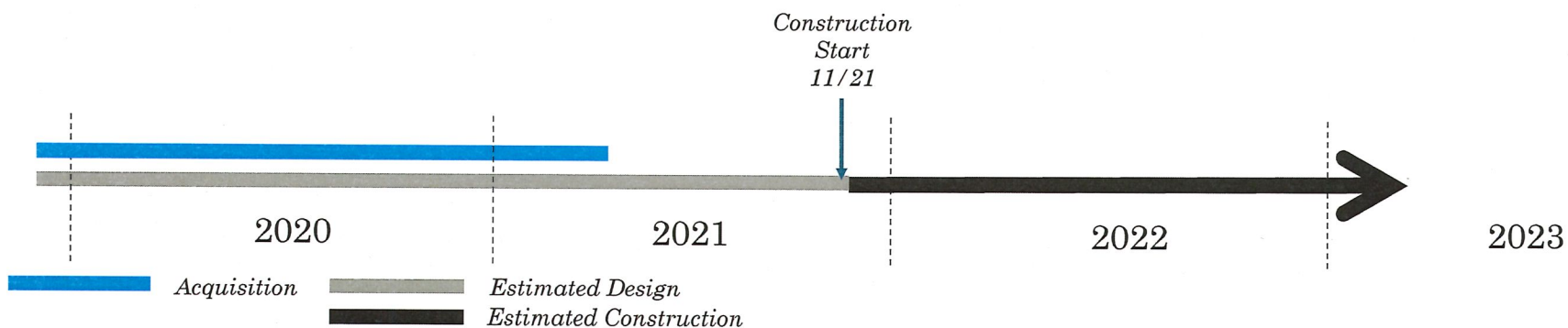
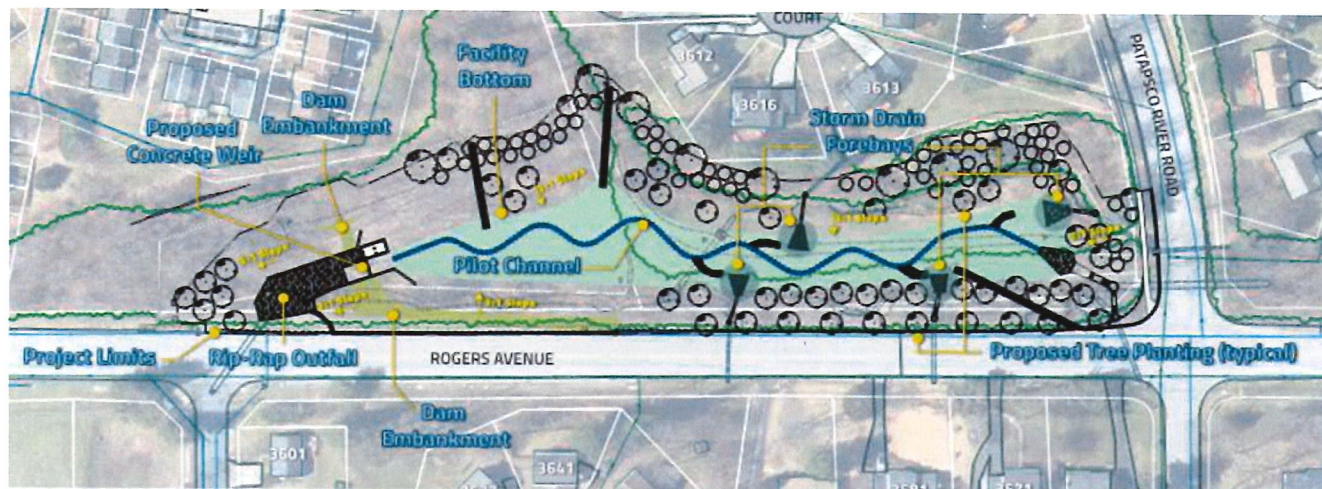
A 10-acre-foot dry flood mitigation pond located off Rogers Avenue

December 2018 Status:

- 35% design, acquisition incomplete, permitting incomplete

Current Status:

- Fully funded
- Project under construction



EC Safe & Sound – Extended North Tunnel

A 15-foot diameter tunnel extending from the West End to the Patapsco River

December 2018 Status:

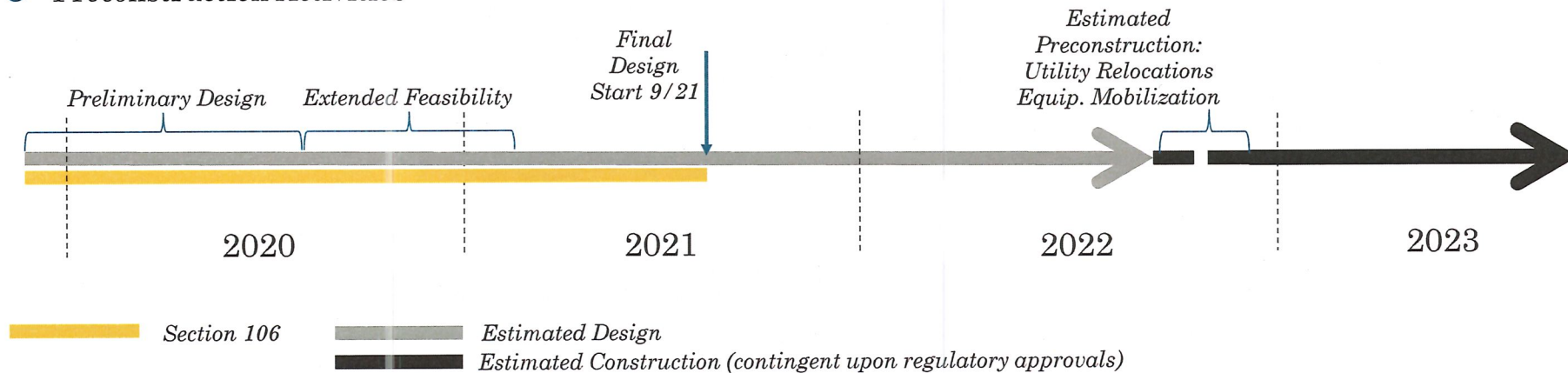
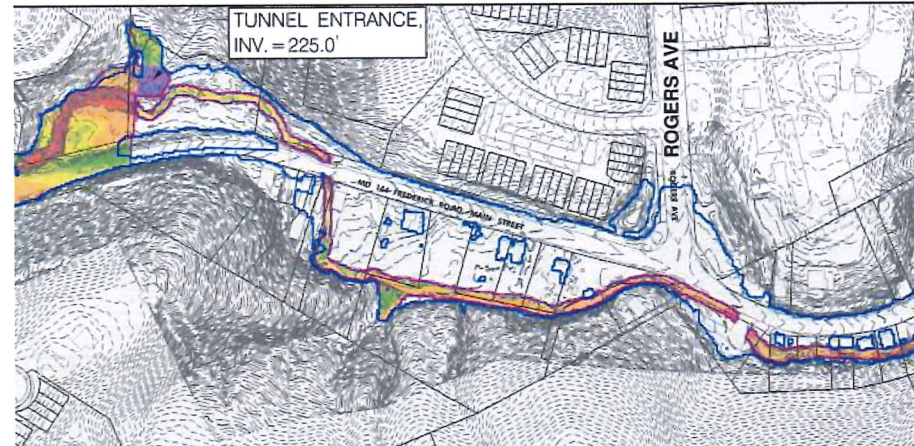
- Idea only, design not started, permitting not started, acquisition not started, funding not secured

Current Status:

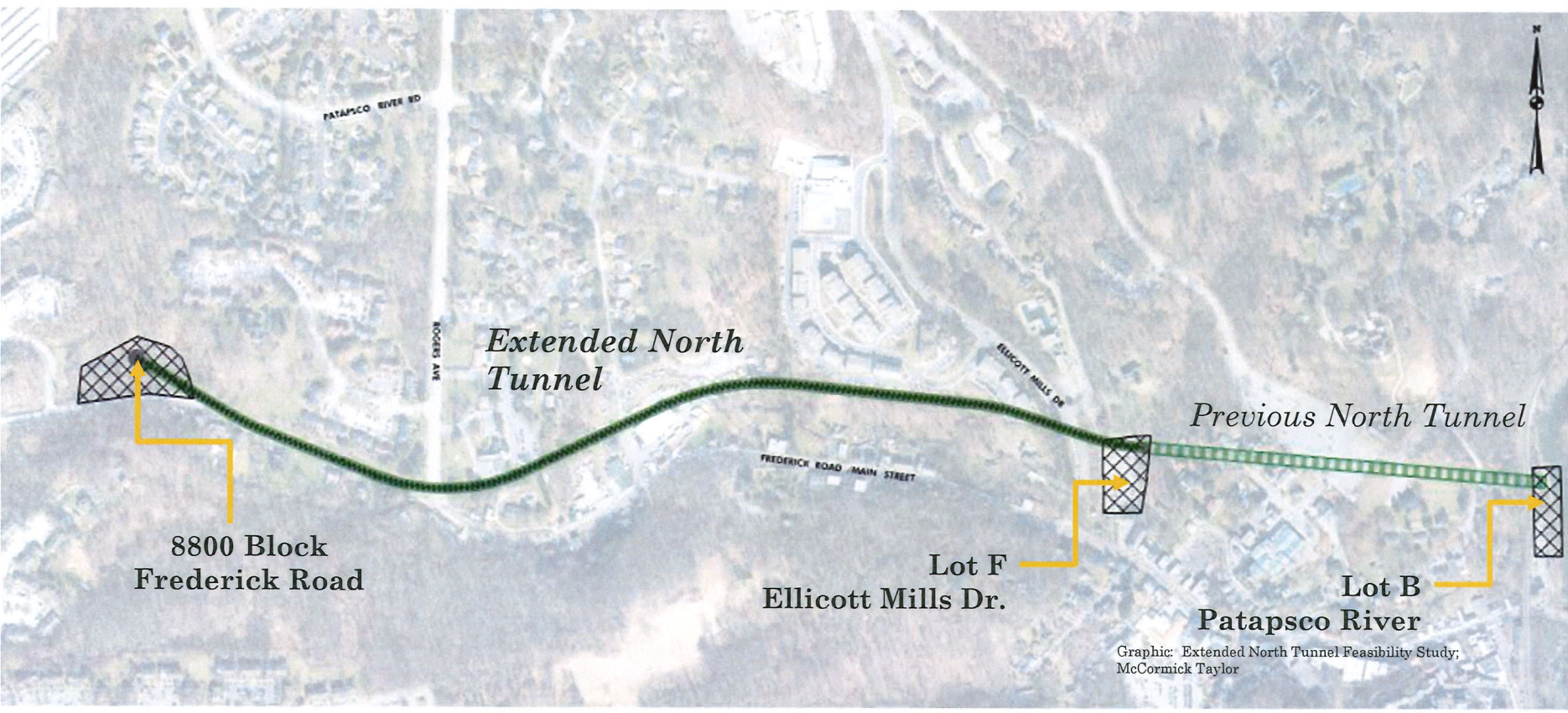
- Acquisitions ongoing
- Progressing Final Design
- Funding upcoming

Next Steps:

- Preconstruction Activities



EC Safe & Sound – Extended North Tunnel



EC Safe & Sound – Maryland Avenue Culvert

A culvert installed under Maryland Avenue connecting the Tiber-Hudson to the Patapsco

December 2018 Status:

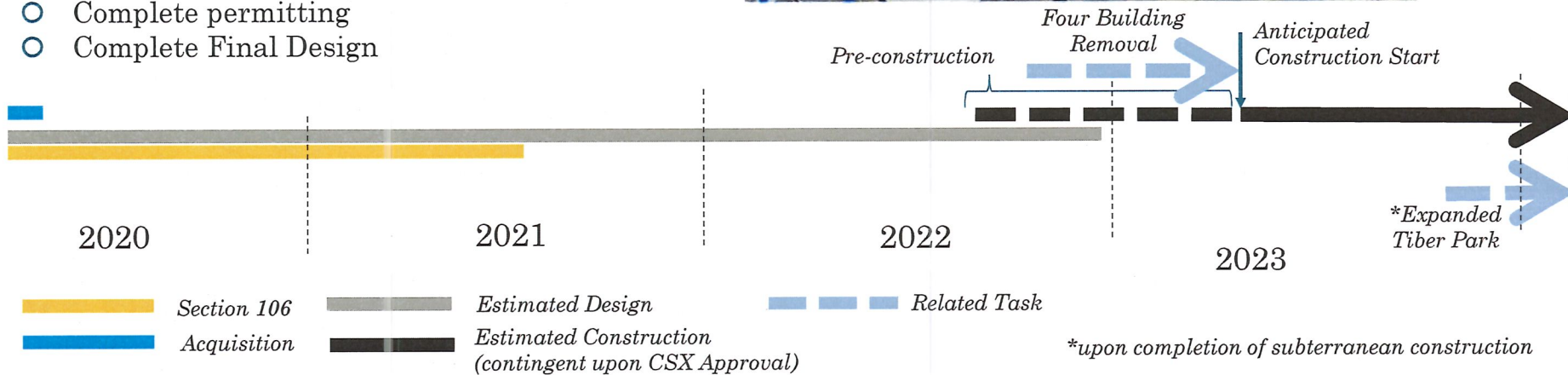
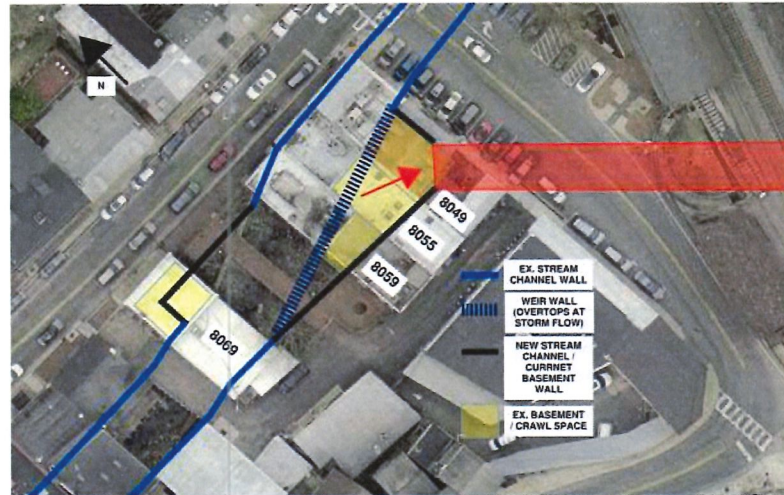
- Preliminary design, permitting not started, acquisitions not started, approvals not secured

Current Status:

- Ongoing CSX engagement
- Acquisitions complete
- Permitting ongoing

Next Steps:

- Solicit for Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR)
- Complete permitting
- Complete Final Design



EC Safe & Sound – H-4

A 15.6-acre-foot dry flood mitigation pond

December 2018 Status:

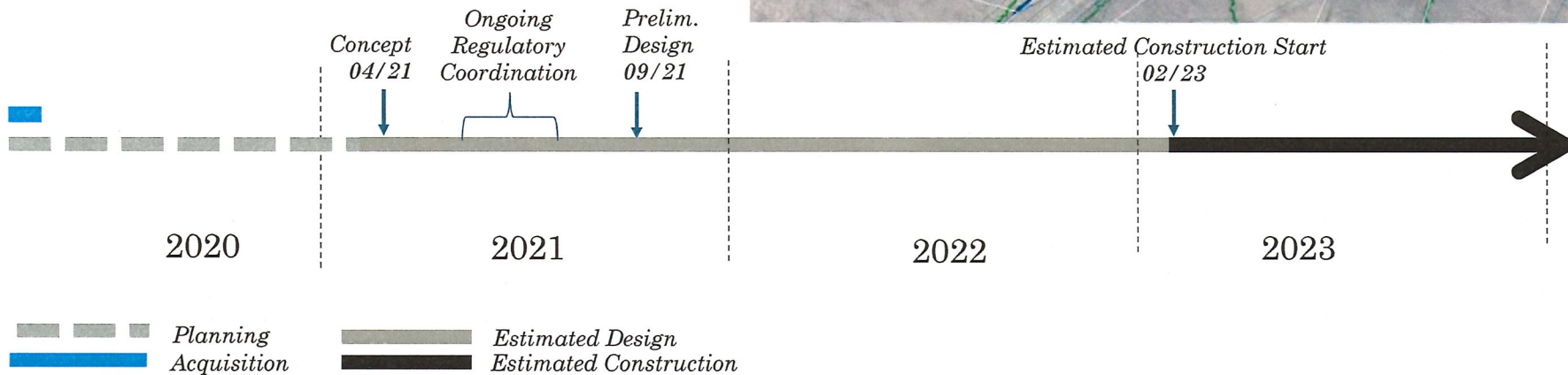
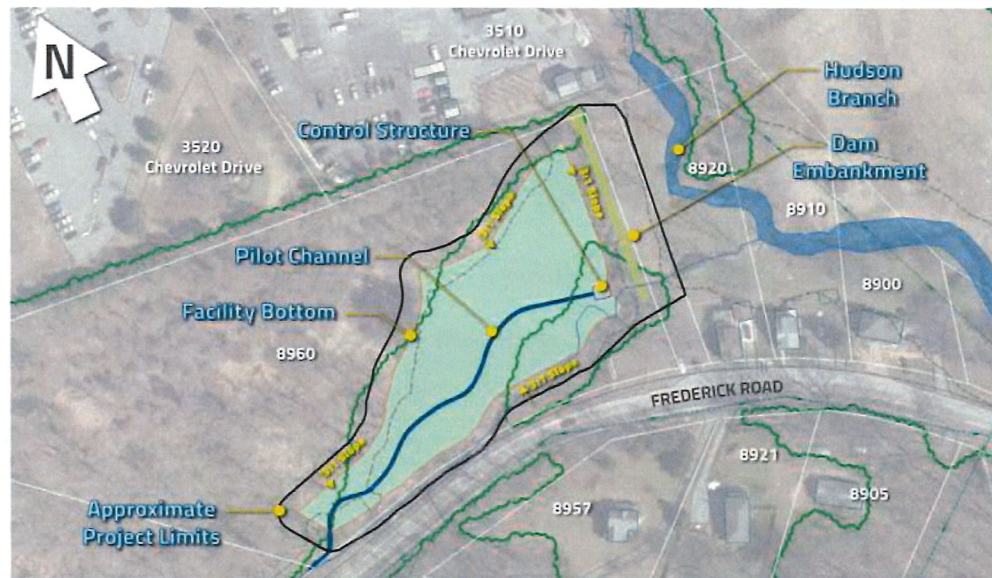
- Concept only, design not started, permitting not started, acquisition not started, funding not secured

Current Status:

- Progressing Pre-Final design
- Fully funded
- Acquisition complete

Next Steps:

- Complete Pre-Final design



EC Safe & Sound – NC-3

A 63-acre-foot dry flood mitigation pond located the Autumn Branch in the New Cut watershed

December 2018 Status:

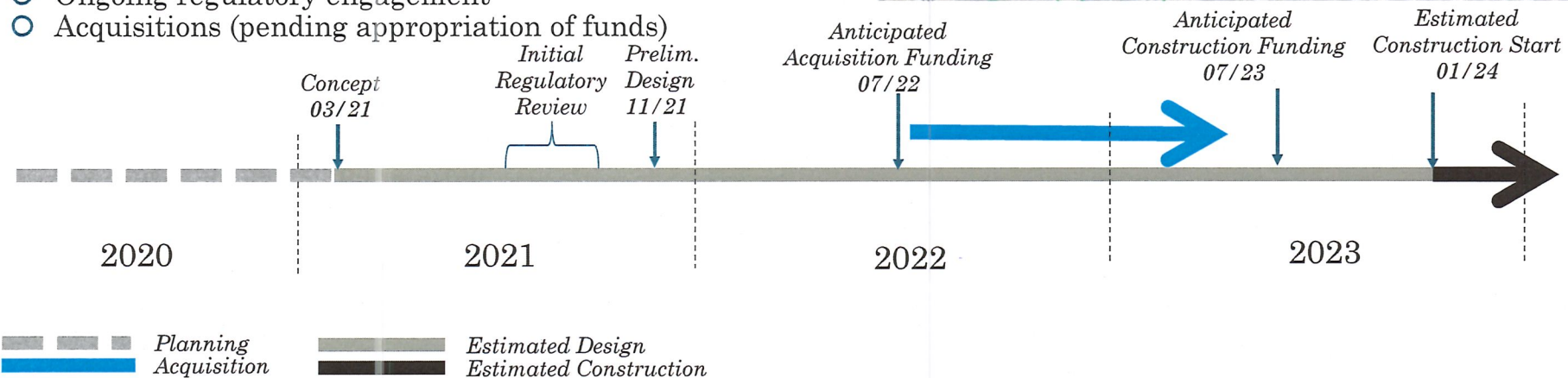
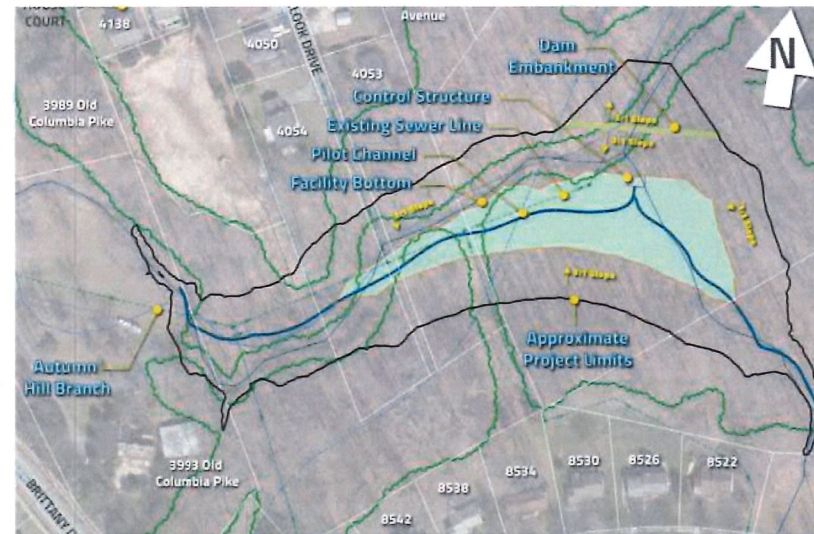
- Concept only, design not started, permitting not started, acquisition not started, funding not secured

Current Status:

- Ongoing geotechnical investigations
- Commenced final design (inclusive of schematic, pre-final, & final design)
- Acquisition funding anticipated in FY2023

Next Steps:

- Ongoing regulatory engagement
- Acquisitions (pending appropriation of funds)



EC Safe & Sound – T-1

A 70-acre-foot dry flood mitigation pond located on the Tiber tributary

December 2018 Status:

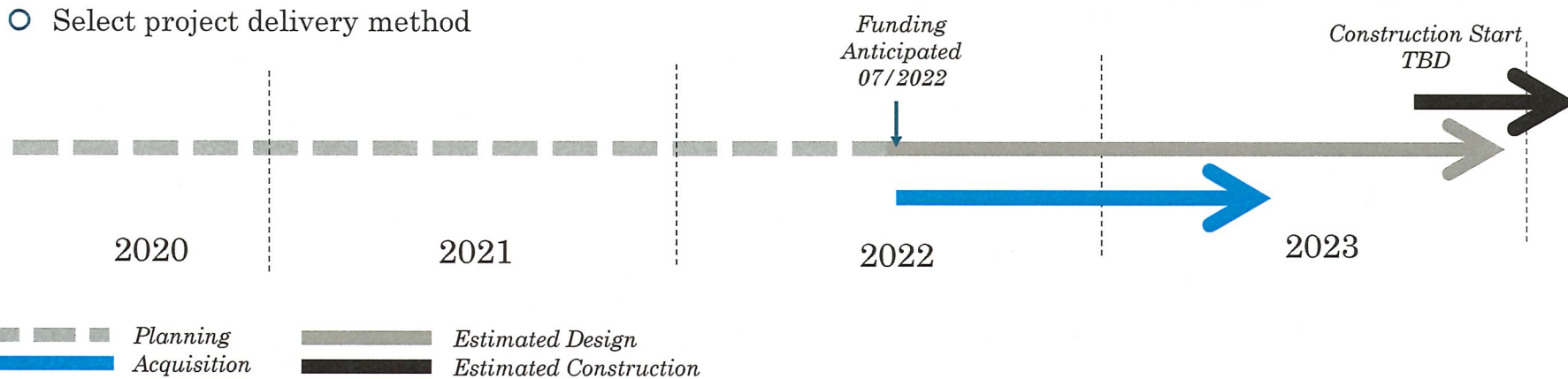
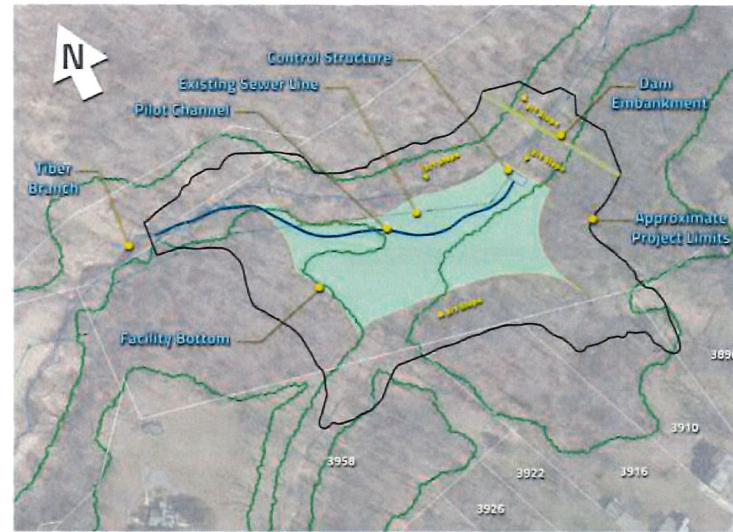
- Concept Only

Current Status:

- Continuing to analyze potential project delivery methods
- Design funding anticipated in FY2023

Next Steps:

- Select project delivery method



Channel Constriction Project

Removal of the rear section of 8085, 8095, 8111-8113 and 8125 Main Street to alleviate constrictions above channel

December 2018 Status:

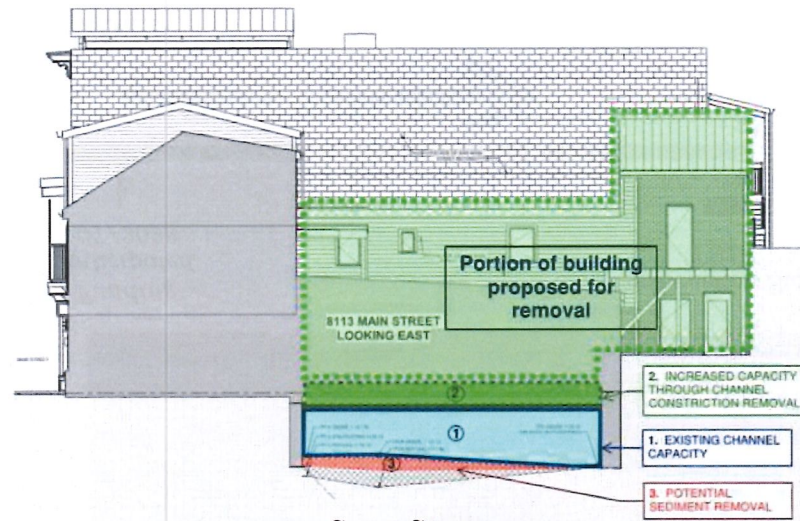
- Concept only, design incomplete, acquisitions incomplete, permitting incomplete, unfunded

Current Status:

- Completing construction drawings & permitting

Next Steps:

- Regulatory Approvals & Construction



Rear Removals

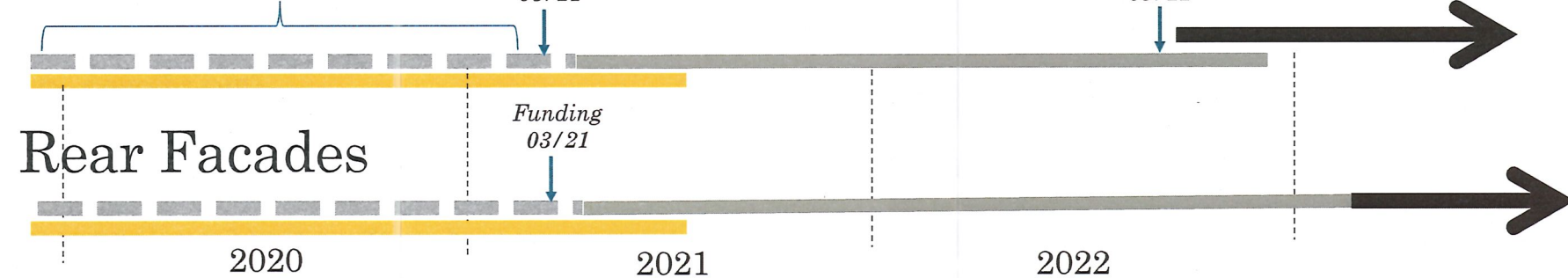
Stabilization of Caplan's

Funding
03/21

Const. Start
09/22

Rear Facades

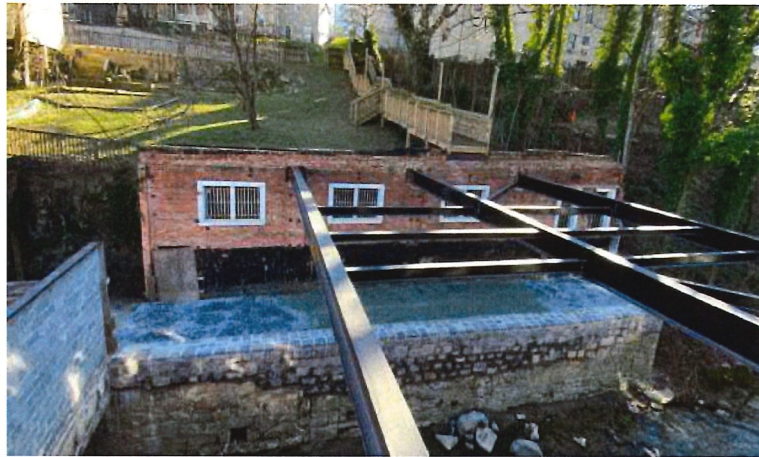
Funding
03/21



Planning
 Section 106
 Estimated Design
 Estimated Construction

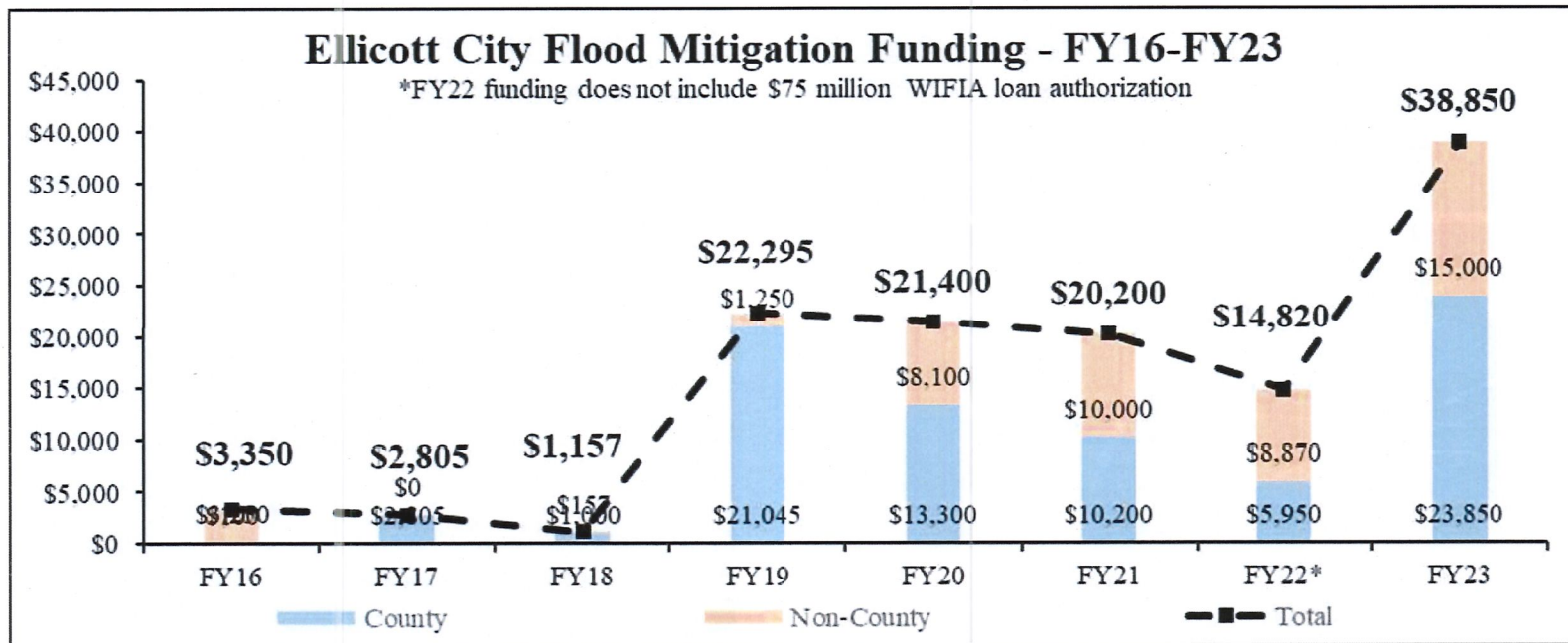
**pending approved program and funding*

Channel Constriction Project



Flood Mitigation Funding

Flood mitigation funding for Ellicott City totals \$95.3 M since FY2020, including \$53.3 in county funding.



Sayers, Margery

From: Kelly Klinefelter Lee <kelly@howardprogressiveproject.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 2:49 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: HPP Budget Testimony

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

County Executive Ball, Council Chair Jones, Vice-Chair Rigby, Members Walsh, Jung, and Yungmann,

Howard Progressive Project's central organizing principle is community. We envision a more just and equitable Howard County, a place where every person can grow to their fullest potential. Therefore, we were pleased to see so many budget items that will continue to build a thriving and just community in Howard County.

First, we are pleased with the increased investment in our schools, especially the increase in mental health services for our students. It is no secret that the pandemic caused tremendous emotional hardship for students. We believe the increased mental health resources will be beneficial for not just students but educators who are often made to fill in the gaps.

We are also pleased with the investments in non-profits included in the budget, particularly those that will do work to lift up those with the gravest needs, such as the \$5 million in initial funding to create a Housing Opportunities Trust Fund and the \$50,000 investment in the Human Services Transportation Program which will improve access for adults with disabilities to health care, employment and social services. We are thrilled about the \$1.3 million investment in maternity initiatives to support underinsured and uninsured mothers' access to quality prenatal care.

In the area of public safety, we are pleased about the investment in body-worn cameras and believe this program will benefit law enforcement and the citizens of Howard County alike. We are even more pleased to see an investment in the mental health resources that will be made available to our police force. This is an important way to ensure that the stresses of the work do not have a negative impact on these vitally important members of our community. We are also happy to see a commitment to supporting Howard County residents who are entering the community after a period of incarceration. This investment shows that our county believes in the potential of all our residents.

Finally, our needs in Howard County are great. When the county council failed to pass the progressive recordation tax we lost more than \$25 million dollars in revenue. What else could we have funded? Even more competitive educator salaries? More housing for our low income friends and neighbors? Should an opportunity for this kind of revenue come up again, we hope the council will consider supporting it.

Thank you for your service to the people of our county.

Kelly

Kelly Klinefelter Lee
President
Howard Progressive Project



*ACS supports Howard County nonprofits in the achievement of their missions
because strong nonprofits improve the quality of life for all*

**County Council FY 2023 Operating Budget Hearing
Testimony
May 10, 2022**

On behalf of the Association of Community Services and our over 150 member organizations and community advocates, I am offering this testimony to advocate for a budget that more fully supports Howard County nonprofits, particularly since the Spending Affordability Advisory Committee report for 2023 recommended increased investment and support from the County to show the value of the partnership between County government and nonprofits and meet the needs we have. ACS has been advocating for, connecting, and strengthening our nonprofit sector for nearly 60 years, and our members have ensured that community members in need are fed, housed, clothed, and supported when faced with the various challenges life may bring.

During our annual conversation in March, you, the County Council, seemed to share a collective recognition of the support needed for the nonprofit sector. We are grateful that the proposed operating budget allocates \$25,000 in non-departmental PAYGO to ACS directly to support our executive transition and incorporates \$12,045,310 in community funding, divided between the Community Service Partnership (CSP) funding -which is given \$8,974,866, civic grants, and arts, tourism, and health. The proposed budget also incorporates \$5 million to seed a Housing Opportunities Trust fund. **We ask that you work to ensure that these items are, minimally, funded as proposed and, within your ability to do so, look for additional opportunities to expand funding to nonprofits.**

I would be remiss if I didn't use this testimony to re-emphasize the needs of nonprofits as the budget process advances. Nonprofits have reliably demonstrated their ability to work collaboratively with County government, for-profit businesses, and fellow nonprofits to meet the needs of our residents quickly, effectively, and creatively. This has been particularly evident in the past two plus years as they played a critical role in addressing the impacts of the pandemic. Like for-profit businesses in our community, nonprofits are coping with the effects of record inflation and are experiencing high staff turnover. Unlike for-profit businesses, we must reiterate that nonprofits have to largely absorb increased costs and try to fundraise, seek grants, etc. to cope because reimbursement rates are determined by government, there are limitations on passing on costs to the people we serve, and there are very few grants that will fund general operational expenses. Despite all of our best efforts to leverage donations, grants, and volunteers to supplement their budgets, many of our nonprofits are struggling financially because expectations to "do more with less" simply do not work and traditional forms of fundraising no longer yield the same results.

The hard truth of the matter is that nonprofits have been struggling financially for a long time and we have arrived at a point of facing very difficult decisions. Even as nonprofits have done and continue to do tremendous work with limited resources, we must call attention to the ever-growing *unmet* needs arising because we can no longer get by with so little. More than that, the short-term influx of support throughout the pandemic has run out or is about to run out, therefore we are facing tough decisions ahead about if programs and even entire organizations can continue to stay open. Now is the time to



*ACS supports Howard County nonprofits in the achievement of their missions
because strong nonprofits improve the quality of life for all*

rethink the way we fund services so that they are truly sustainable for our future, or we stand to lose critical programs and/or partners in the Howard County community.

As you work through the budget process and continue introducing legislation, we raise these needs:

- 1. Dedicated funds for operational (and program support) for nonprofits without onerous application and reporting requirements.**
- 2. Securing the increased proposed funding for the Community Service Partnership grants and one-time grants, particularly since they have been level funded for many years.**
- 3. Using county, federal, and State pandemic-related surplus revenues to help address nonprofit infrastructure and operational needs and release the gridlock that has prevented those dollars from getting to more nonprofits.**
- 4. Develop mechanisms (e.g., legislative actions) to enable multi-year grants for nonprofits so we can reliably plan for meeting community needs beyond an annual basis.**

Finally, I would like to share ACS support for the Downtown Columbia Branch and Business and Arts Education Center vision shared by the Howard County Library System (HCLS). Libraries are vital components of thriving communities and serve as some of the few common spaces that everyone can be in for free. In addition to all of the educational and community gathering opportunities that will come with a new HCLS Downtown Columbia Branch that meets the needs of the present and growing population in the downtown Columbia area, we welcome this project's plan to incorporate housing that is affordable to people at all income levels. We draw your attention to our recently released [FY 2021 Housing Brief](#) that continues to show that Howard County simply doesn't have the amount of housing available for our current population size. With the 2020 Census revealing that Howard County is one of the top growing counties in Maryland, it will be to our detriment if we don't use every opportunity possible for every person in Howard County to have a safe, stable place to call home that is affordable at every income level across one's lifespan. Your support for this capital project will literally help build a better future for Howard County.

Thank you for this opportunity to represent our nonprofit community. We believe that our community deserves fully staffed and well-resourced service providers and spaces, and our nonprofit workforce deserves wages and benefits that value the critical work that we do. Nonprofits have a valuable, strong partnership with County government, and ACS hopes that we can continue to work together to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. Now is the time for us work to ensure that community members have equitable access to the resources that they need to thrive and don't get left behind because nonprofits are under-resourced and/or they don't have an affordable place to call home..

Sincerely,

Joan Driessen,
Executive Director

Howard County Housing Affordability Coalition

FY 2023 Budget Proposal Testimony

May 10, 2022

The Howard County Housing Affordability Coalition appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments in support of FY 2023 funding for a new Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) staff position, Downtown Columbia Plan projects and the Housing Opportunities Trust Fund (HOTF).

DHCD Staffing

We strongly support the funds included in the Operations budget for an additional DHCD staff member to manage the Rehab Loan Program. The Coalition recognizes the unanticipated burden the Pandemic has placed upon staff across all our County offices. We particularly appreciate the extraordinary work of DHCD Director Cimino and her staff. Along with taking on the unexpected herculean tasks of acquiring and effectively disbursing state and federal eviction and foreclosure prevention monies that have kept thus far almost 3,000 families in their homes, they also managed to keep moving forward with programs and projects that continue to chip away at our County's already huge and continuing to grow affordable housing gap. The requested new staff position is critical to help the Department meet County government's responsibilities to our community.

Downtown Columbia Plan Projects

The Coalition strongly supports the important funding included in the FY 23 capital budget to keep the affordable housing plan for Downtown Columbia moving forward in a timely manner. Building the North Columbia Fire Station and redeveloping the Banneker Fire Station will not only ensure quality fire services for those areas of our growing community, but also will enable the creation of 100 new units of senior housing, bringing affordable and accessible housing to our underserved and resource limited senior population.

Additionally, we support the funding commitment to keep the new Central Library on schedule, which is the keystone to adding mixed-income communities at both the new and current library sites. These elements of the proposed FY 2023 capital budget will ensure that the promise of 900 affordable housing opportunities in Downtown will become reality. We are off to a meaningful start with 29 families currently housed at Juniper and through Live Where You Work (LWYW), another 30 at Marlow leasing this summer, and 172 planned for Artists Flats, Lakefront North and the newly expanded LWYW Program.

Housing Opportunities Trust Fund

Current financial surpluses offer an unprecedented opportunity for County government to address two of our community's most critical infrastructure needs—schools and housing. These two needs are inextricably related and should be considered in tandem rather than separately.

Housing Affordability Coalition FY 2023 Budget Testimony

May 10, 2022

Coalition members support the FY 2023 HCPSS budget proposals—a total allocation of \$1.026 billion, driven by an \$84 million increase in State and County funding that includes a \$48 million operating budget increase over FY 2022 funding. These investments will enable the HCPSS to move forward with its deferred maintenance and long overdue construction needs and its operations goals.

The Coalition asks that the Council also approve the proposed HOTF funding. Five million dollars is the bare minimum necessary to seed the HOTF, but it is at least a launching point for what we view as a critical vehicle necessary to ensure an efficient and effective means for the County to begin to close the growing affordability gap.

The Housing Opportunities Master Plan Task Force, comprised of 23 citizens representing a cross section of expertise and interest groups, contributed to the work of nationally recognized housing affordability consultants. The resulting Housing Opportunities Master Plan pointed out that the need for affordable housing in our County is great and the resources are limited. As one of five key priorities, the resulting Plan recommends a housing trust as a means to provide a stable and predictable funding process to respond to the County's unmet housing needs.

One of the foundational reasons to create a housing trust is that it not only funds programs that directly benefit low and middle income residents, it also becomes an investment vehicle—including loan repayments and the opportunity for private contributions—that would enable the long-term sustainability of the Trust Fund. The Coalition envisions that a portion of the proposed start-up monies would immediately be invested—as with other County nonreverting special fund monies—to facilitate a long-term funding stream for housing programs and projects.

Effective July 1, 2022, House Bill 878 authorizes the Housing Opportunities Trust Fund and codifies the purposes for which the Fund may be used and the parameters for administering the Fund. The Fund is limited to serving households at or below 80% of the Howard County median income and, in any year, 50% of the funds expended must serve households at or below 50% of the Howard County median income. The Department of Housing and Community Development is charged with administering the Fund.

The HOTF process will engage the Council, DHCD and the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ). County monies appropriated to the HOTF will require approval by the Council through the annual County budget process just as the current \$5M request. Decisions about which programs and projects to fund and the amount of funding will be made by the DHCD Director based on recommendations of the DHCD's Housing Community Development Advisory Board and in accord with the Fund's statutory requirements. All development/redevelopment projects will be subject to the standard County Planning and Zoning Board with Council approval required when a PILOT or APFO waiver is necessary. Additionally, an annual report is required to be submitted to the Council and others each December outlining the activities of the Fund.

**Housing Affordability Coalition FY 2023 Budget Testimony
May 10, 2022**

In the Coalition's County Executive public budget hearing testimony we asked that the Administration share with the Council, housing advocates and our community how the DHCD will administer the HOTF. DHCD Director Cimino shared such information in with the Council's May 4 work session. The Coalition is comfortable that the documents provide appropriate operational guardrails that support the already codified legislative and administrative controls already in place stated in the preceding paragraph. The limitation on uses of HOTF funds are clearly defined by the State authorizing legislation and articulated in the draft operating procedures.

It is time to provide the funding needed to take advantage of this new tool and increase affordable housing opportunities throughout the County. The Coalition will continue to work proactively with Director Cimino and her team to ensure that these funds are used reasonably, effectively and in a timely manner.

In his County Executive's budget hearing testimony Coalition Steering Committee member Paul Casey on behalf of the Coalition, provided an apt analogy. "It's like we have been given a shiny, new SUV that can take us anywhere but now we need to be sure that the GPS is installed to let us know where we are going and that there is fuel in the tank to get us there—otherwise the SUV sits in the garage unused and useless." The Coalition urges the Council to take the bold step of funding and placing the HOTF in service.

As already stated, the Coalition believes the HOTF is a critical vehicle for seriously addressing our County's ever-widening housing affordability gap. We are confident that with all interested parties working together, the HOTF can be established during Fiscal Year 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Housing Affordability Steering Committee Members

Paul Casey, Tom Coale, Joan Driessen, Jackie Eng, Peter Engel, Grace Kubofcik, Grace Morris, Rich Pardoe, Paul Reville, Jean Sedlacko, Dana Sohr, Pat Sylvester, Vonda Orders, Joe Willmott, Phyllis Zolotorow

Testimony of Maryland University of Integrative Health

Marc Levin, President

Support of Proposed Funding for Maryland University of Integrative Health in the County Budget

May 10, 2022

MUIH is a 501(c)(3) private university and is a national leader in integrative health and wellness. We are one of the few universities in the US dedicated solely to the promotion of whole-person and community health and wellness and have the broadest array of integrative health and wellness programs of any university in the country. We were founded in 1974 with an acupuncture clinic in downtown Columbia and have expanded into a broad based university.

The proposed county budget includes funding for MUIH toward the building of a community focused Whole-Person Health and Wellness Center which will provide expanded integrative health services and education to residents of Howard County as well as other benefits to the county. Our goal is to develop a nationally recognized successful community-oriented facility that ultimately serves as a model for others to replicate across the country.

The new community focused Whole-Person Health and Wellness Center will include a teaching kitchen, a comprehensive integrated health care clinic that will include a specialized integrative pain management program, a therapeutic yoga studio, and a classroom. It will be the first center in the country to include all these aspects.

- **The Teaching Kitchen** will be a place for adults and children of all ages to learn about the impact of mindful nutrition and diet on their long-term health, daily physical comfort, and mental well-being. The teaching kitchen will be used extensively for community classes and education and will be a very popular and valuable resource for the residents of the county. In addition to general community classes, we envision a partnership with the Health Department, the Department of Community Resources and Services, the Office on Aging and Independence, and the public school system for

educating individuals, families, and students on nutrition and cooking. Some examples of classes that can be taught by our experts include: food as medicine; cooking whole foods on a budget; fast and easy cooking for seniors; cooking with our children; nutrition for pregnancy; cooking for diabetes; family cooking; anti-inflammatory meals; and mindful eating.

- **The comprehensive integrative health care clinic** will provide a robust suite of health and wellness treatments and services by a diverse team of health care practitioners. These practitioners and staff would also provide community outreach and education sessions as well as collaborate with county departments on providing services to their clients. As part of the integrative clinic will be a **specialized Integrative Pain Management Program** comprised of a broad array of professionals who, as a team, can offer non-pharmacological and pharmacological approaches to pain management and well-being with an integrative and whole-person approach. This program will treat varieties of chronic pain and address addiction challenges that are associated with pain management.
- **A therapeutic yoga studio** will be used to make the healing practices of yoga therapy, mindfulness meditation, and targeted yoga practices part of their health and wellness practices.
- **A Classroom** will be used for free and discounted classes on health and wellness for the residents of the county providing the education and tools necessary for people to make healthy decisions in their daily lives.

The center and the practitioners in the center will also focus on providing services to underserved populations.

The proposed funding is an investment in the health and well-being of the residents of the county, a commitment to preventive and whole-person wellness, and will support the efforts of various county departments. We believe funding to support health and wellness, preventive approaches, nutrition education, and integrated care is just as important as funding hospitals. In fact, efforts to keep individuals out of hospitals not only saves money but improves quality of life. MUIH has not previously received funding from the county.

Looking at this unique new center from a different lens, we believe it will attract individuals from across the region to come to Howard County to receive services or attend classes. It will also be an additional benefit for individuals considering moving to Howard County or locating a business in Howard County to know that this center and its broad array of health and wellness services are available close to them. We are very fortunate in Howard County to have a Johns Hopkins hospital facility for acute care, the new Sheppard Pratt facility for mental health services, and this new Whole-Person Health and Wellness Center will complement and expand the health and wellness services provided to the residents of the county. It will also serve the county to be able to promote that it has not only a nationally recognized public school system, library, community college, and hospital system, but also a nationally recognized an innovative Whole-Person Health and Wellness Center.

We urge you to support the funding for MUIH for this new center in the proposed budget.